

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 02668 01 OF 02 102032Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 CU-04 AF-10 NEA-10 /097 W
-----060638 102152Z /72

P 101958Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3797
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 02668

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SP, US
SUBJECT: PSOE DEFENSE EXPERT SPEAKS OUT ON DEFENSE ISSUES

REF: MADRID 2598 NOTAL

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SOCIALIST (PSOE) DEPUTY AND
DEFENSE EXPERT LUIS SOLANA, WHO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON
DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 13-17 ON A LEADER GRANT,
EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF DEFENSE-RELATED
ISSUES IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED MARCH 2 BY MADRID'S
"DIARIO 16." WE PROVIDE BELOW A SUMMARY OF THE HIGH-
LIGHTS OF THE INTERVIEW, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE WHO
WILL BE MEETING IN WASHINGTON WITH SOLANA AND CONGRESS
DEFENSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ENRIQUE MUGICA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 02668 01 OF 02 102032Z

2. SPAIN NEEDS A GENERAL DEFENSE PLAN ADAPTED TO THE
COUNTRY'S THREE ZONES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT: THE
SECTOR MADE UP OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS AND THE VALENCIAN
COAST ("LEVANTE"); THE SOUTHERN COAST AND STRAITS OF
GIBRALTAR; AND THE CANARY ISLANDS. THE DISTRIBUTION
OF SPANISH MILITARY POWER SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON THESE

ZONES IN ORDER NOT TO DISSIPATE THE CAPACITY OF THE ARMED FORCES.

3. THE POTENTIAL DANGERS TO SPAIN EMANATE FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND AFRICA. "NO ONE DOUBTS THAT SPAIN IS ON THE MAPS OF THE SOVIET HIGH GENERAL STAFF, SINCE WE ARE FULLY INCLUDED IN WESTERN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS." CONSEQUENTLY, THE DANGER EXISTS THAT THE SOVIET FLEET MIGHT CARRY OUT AN OPERATION THROUGH "THE SOUTH," WHICH MAKES THE NEED FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE ZONES INDICATED ABOVE OBVIOUS.

4. THE POTENTIAL DANGER FROM AFRICA IS A FUNCTION OF HISTORY, PROXIMITY AND THE EXISTENCE OF COMMON AREAS OF INTEREST. "DON'T FORGET THAT AFRICA STILL HAS NOT BEEN CONSOLIDATED IN THE STRUGGLE OF THE GREAT POWERS AND THAT THE CANARIES ARE A TEMPTATION FOR BOTH. IT IS LOGICAL THAT WHEN ONE CANNOT WIN IN A PARTICULAR AREA THAT ONE THEN ATTEMPTS TO NEUTRALIZE IT."

5. SOLANA THEN DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN "THREAT" AND "RISK." "THE RISK OF A CONFLICT WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES IS GREAT, BUT THE THREAT THIS SUPPOSES FOR SPAIN IS SMALL, WHILE IN THE CASE OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE THREAT IS GREAT BUT THE RISK OF A CONFLICT...IS SMALL." (I.E., THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES IS A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 02668 01 OF 02 102032Z

REAL ONE, ALTHOUGH THE DANGER THIS WOULD PRESENT TO SPAIN IS NOT VERY GREAT, WHILE THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONFLICT WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS RATHER REMOTE, BUT THE DANGER SUCH A CONFLICT WOULD REPRESENT, IF IT WERE TO EVENTUATE, WOULD BE A GRAVE ONE.)

6. THE SPANISH NAVY IS A CRITICALLY IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE SPANISH DEFENSE EFFORT, BUT ITS STRUCTURES MUST BE CHANGED, SINCE THEY ARE "ORIENTED TOWARD MESHING WITH NATO, WHICH MEANS ATTEMPTING TO CONVERT THE SPANISH NAVY INTO AN INTER-OCEAN NAVY, SOMETHING WHICH IS FAR BEYOND OUR NEEDS AND POSSIBILITIES."

7. TURNING SPECIFICALLY TO THE CANARIES, SUFFICIENT POWER MUST BE CONCENTRATED IN THE ISLANDS TO DISSUADE ANY POTENTIAL AGGRESSOR, AND THIS MEANS THE ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY UNITS CAPABLE OF REPELLING SMALL INFILTRATIONS, WHICH IS THE MOST LIKELY FORM AGGRESSION WOULD TAKE IN THE CANARIES. "THE ORGANIZATION OF LAND FORCES SHOULD BE ORIENTED TOWARD UNITS OF THE CIVIL GUARD TO PATROL THE COASTS AND COMMANDO UNITS. THE ARMY WOULD HAVE TO BE FULLY EQUIPPED AND TRAINED FOR THIS TYPE OF MISSION,

FUNDAMENTALLY THROUGH THE USE OF HELICOPTERS. AS FOR THE NAVY, THE USE OF FAST SMALL BOATS, SUCH AS THOSE EMPLOYED SO EFFECTIVELY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE MARINES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. THE AIR FORCE SHOULD EMPLOY A SYSTEM OF VIGILANCE OVER NEARBY WATERS, A MISSION FOR WHICH THE SPANISH C-212 AIRCRAFT IS WELL SUITED." END UNCLASSIFIED.

8. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. SOLANA'S INTERVIEW IS INTERESTING ON A NUMBER OF COUNTS, INCLUDING HIS RATHER SPECIFIC ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING MILITARY MISSION, BUT MOST PARTICULARLY FOR HIS DEFINITION OF THE SOVIET UNION AS A THREAT TO SPAIN. AS HE POINTED OUT IN HIS CONVERSATION MARCH 2 WITH THE AMBASSADOR, THIS IS THE FIRST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MADRID 02668 01 OF 02 102032Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 02668 02 OF 02 102032Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 CU-04 AF-10 NEA-10 /097 W
-----060642 102151Z /72

P 101958Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3798
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 02668

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

TIME THE PSOE HAS GONE ON RECORD PUBLICLY TO THIS EFFECT.
WE ALSO NOTE THAT IT IS THE FIRST TIME THE PARTY HAS SO
CLEARLY PLACED SPAIN WITHIN THE WESTERN DEFENSE COMMUNITY,
AN ASSERTION WHICH CONTRADICTS THE PARTY'S OFT-USED
ARGUMENT THAT SPAIN SHOULD NOT JOIN NATO BECAUSE SUCH A
QUALITATIVE CHANGE IN SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH THE
ALLIANCE WOULD BE DESTABILIZING IN EUROPE. THE VIEWS OF
SOLANA, WHO STUDIES DEFENSE ISSUES MORE SERIOUSLY AND
DEEPLY THAN ANY OTHER PARTY LEADER, DO NOT NECESSARILY
REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE PSOE. BUT HIS IDEAS ARE
CERTAIN TO CARRY WEIGHT IN THE PARTY'S DELIBERATIONS ON
DEFENSE QUESTIONS. END CONFIDENTIAL. STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, VISITS, DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID02668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780108-0927
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780383/aaaacsec.tel
Line Count: 181
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4ea8acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MADRID 2598
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3374773
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PSOE DEFENSE EXPERT SPEAKS OUT ON DEFENSE ISSUES
TAGS: PEPR, SP, US, PSOE, (SOLANA, LUIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4ea8acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014